

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are still pending in the patent application.

Claims 3 and 16 are amended in view of the point raised in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

The Claimed Invention

Claim 1 recites a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between a motor seal and a pump seal, and further arranged in relation to a shaft for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal.

The third seal may be a labyrinth, magnetic or lip seal, as well as a non-contact seal, and may be located on the motor end of the close coupled adapter to function as a primary sealing device.

The present invention overcomes the problem in the art by adding the third seal, such as a labyrinth seal, in front of the motor sealing device. This provides an additional seal of known capabilities to augment the motor sealing device. The labyrinth seal is added to the pump adapter and therefore is part of the pump. This dual sealing is a unique solution providing the motor bearings double protection from pump leakage and the ingress of liquid from wash-down events common to services encountered in close coupled pump applications.

Claim 11 recites a pumping device having similar features.

The Traversal

In paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, the main independent claims are rejected as being anticipated by Lorett.

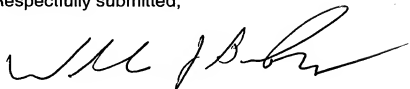
However, it is respectfully submitted that Lorett does not teach or suggest a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between the motor seal and the pump seal, and further arranged in relation to a shaft for providing additional sealing protection for a motor seal, as claimed herein.

In contrast to the claimed invention, Lorett discloses a pump improvement having a portable seal or ring 96, a pump seal 28 and a ring 98 arranged between the portable seal or ring 96 and a motor seal 30. The portable seal or ring 96 and the ring 98 each have an O-ring arranged therein and opposed seal faces 102 as shown in Figure 4. See also Lorett, column 4, lines 8-20. However, it is respectfully submitted that a person skilled in the art would appreciate that the portable seal or ring 96 and the ring 98 work together to form one seal, and are not separate seals, in contrast to the reason in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. For example, neither the portable seal or ring 96 nor the ring 98 alone performs a sealing function on its own. Instead, together they combine to perform a sealing function. For instance, without the portable seal or ring 96, fluid would also leak between the shaft 16 and the motor seal 30.; and without the ring 98, fluid would also leak between the shaft 16 and the motor seal 30. Because of this, it is respectfully submitted that Lorett does not teach or suggest a pumping device featuring a third seal arranged between the motor seal and the pump seal, and further arranged in relation to the shaft for providing additional sealing protection for the motor seal, as claimed herein.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 or 11, contain all the limitations thereof, and are deemed patentable for all the same reasons.

Reconsideration and early allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'WJ Barber', is written over the typed name.

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